

Amendment

After Final Office Action of August 5, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 (Currently amended). A method for the prophylaxis and/or therapy of portal hypertension, the method comprising administering a-an anti-portal hypertension effective dose of 0.0001 to 1000 mg/kg body weight of an inhibitor of phosphodiesterase type 5 (PDE 5), or of a pharmaceutical composition containing a PDE 5-inhibiter, wherein the PDE 5-inhibitor is administered to a human.

2 (Currently amended). A method for the prophylaxis and/or therapy against one or more of the following diseases or complications in humans, bleeding complications of the portal hypertension, hepato-renal syndrome, hepato-pulmonary syndrome, hepatic encephalopathy, spontaneous bacterial peritonitis and ascites, the method comprising administering to a human a portal blood flow increasing amount of an inhibitor of phosphodiesterase type 5 (PDE 5), or of a pharmaceutical composition containing a PDE 5-inhibitor.

3 (Currently amended). A method for the prophylaxis and/or therapy against illnesses or disease conditions in humans, which can be controlled by a decrease of the portal vein pressure and/or by an increase of the portal vein flow, or which can be prevented thereby, the method comprising administering to a human, respectively, a portal vein pressure decreasing amount and/or a portal vein flow increasing amount of a PDE 5-inhibitor, or of a pharmaceutical composition containing a PDE 5-inhibitor.

4 (Currently amended). The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, the method further comprising prophylaxis and/or therapy against bleedings from oesophagus varices and/or fundus varices.

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5 (Withdrawn). A method for influencing the metabolism of a substance, wherein the influencing involves an increase of the portal vein flow and, thus, an increase of a blood flow through the liver, the method comprising administering to a human a portal blood flow increasing amount of a PDE 5-inhibitor, or of a pharmaceutical composition containing a PDE 5-inhibitor.

6 (Withdrawn). The method according to claim 5, wherein the influencing involves an enhanced metabolic decomposition of an exogenously added substance in the liver.

7 (Withdrawn). The method according to claim 5, wherein the substance is an exogenously added substance, which is incorporated concurrently with, after, or particularly prior to the administration of the PDE 5-inhibitor or the pharmaceutical composition containing a PDE 5-inhibitor, and/or wherein the exogenous substance is selected from the group consisting of medicaments, drugs or toxic substances such as ethyl alcohol.

8 (Currently amended). The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3 ~~or 5 to 7~~, wherein the PDE 5-inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of Sildenafil, Tadalafil and Vardenafil.

9 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 8, wherein Verdenafil is selected as the PDE 5-inhibitor.

10. Cancelled.

11 (Previously presented). The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, 5 to 7 or 9, wherein the PDE 5-inhibitor or the pharmaceutical composition containing a PDE 5-inhibitor is administered orally.

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12 (Currently amended). The method according to claim 11, wherein the PDE 5-inhibitor is administered orally as a single dose in an amount of 0.01 to 10, particularly 0.1 to 1.5 mg PDE 5-inhibitor per kg body weight of a human.

13 (Withdrawn). The method, according to any one of claims 1 to 3, 5 to 7, 9 or 11, the method comprising administering the PDE 5-inhibiter in combination with an additional substance, which is selected from the group of β -blockers, Vasopressin and analogs thereof as well as Somatostatin and analogs thereof.

14 (Withdrawn). Combination-medication for the prophylaxis and/or therapy against portal hypertension and/or against disease conditions or risks which are associated with the portal hypertension,

wherein the combination medication comprises the following combination, in a common or in separate application form(s):

- a PDE 5-inhibitor, and
- another drug against portal hypertension..

15 (Withdrawn). Combination-medication according to claim 14; wherein the other drug against portal hypertension is selected from conventional drugs against portal hypertension, particularly from a group consisting of β -blockers, Vasopressin and analogs thereof as well as Somatostatin and analogs thereof.

16 (Withdrawn). Combination-medication according to claim 14, wherein the PDE 5-inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of Sildenafil, Tadalafil and Vardenafil.